

ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF PROPOSITION 49

Proposition 49 will:

- Make our neighborhoods safe
- Give our children a safe, educational, and recreational place to go after school
- Save taxpayers money
- Help working families

Proposition 49 is funded out of future growth in state revenues, but only after our economy has recovered. IT WILL NOT REQUIRE AN INCREASE IN TAXES OR AFFECT THE CURRENT BUDGET. The prestigious Rose Institute says Proposition 49 saves society approximately \$9 for every \$1 invested. THE RETURN TO TAXPAYERS ALONE IS APPROXIMATELY 3 DOLLARS FOR EVERY 1 TAX DOLLAR INVESTED. That's why it's endorsed by taxpayer watchdog groups such as the California Taxpayers' Association, the National Tax Limitation Committee and the Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association.

Proposition 49 provides over \$400 million in direct grants to elementary and junior high schools. These funds can ONLY be used for after school programs.

Recent studies of existing after school programs by major universities and think tanks such as UCLA, UC Irvine, USC, and the Rand Institute are unanimous—after school programs change lives by improving grades and reducing crime.

POLICE STATISTICS SHOW THAT VIOLENT JUVENILE CRIME—HOMICIDE, RAPE, ROBBERY, AND ASSAULT—INCREASES DRAMATICALLY DURING THE AFTER SCHOOL HOURS BETWEEN 3PM AND 6PM, creating a “danger zone” for our kids and our neighborhoods. 3PM to 6PM is the time when up to 1 million California kids under the age of 15 may be left unsupervised. These are the hours when kids are most likely to join gangs, use alcohol and tobacco, and become addicted to drugs.

A study of the most crime-ridden schools in Los Angeles showed CRIME RATES DROPPED 40% WHEN THOSE SCHOOLS OFFERED AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS. In another study, vandalism and stealing plummeted 66%, while violent acts, carrying

concealed weapons, and arrests were reduced 50% among program participants.

PROPOSITION 49 IMPROVES GRADES AND TEST SCORES. Studies show that after school programs increase scores on standardized math and reading tests and improve grades, while decreasing the incidence of grade repetition, dropping out of school, and remedial education.

Proposition 49 was put on the ballot by nearly 800,000 Californians. IT IS SUPPORTED BY THE WIDEST COALITION OF CALIFORNIANS OF ANY BALLOT MEASURE IN RECENT MEMORY.

PROPOSITION 49 IS ENDORSED BY:

LAW ENFORCEMENT: Attorney General Bill Lockyer, California State Sheriffs' Association, California District Attorneys Association, California Narcotic Officers' Association, California Peace Officers' Association, California Police Activities League, Fight Crime: Invest in Kids, and almost 60 individual police chiefs.

EDUCATION: California Teachers Association, California Parent Teachers Association (PTA), California School Employees Association, Children Now, and hundreds of school superintendents and principals.

TAXPAYERS ORGANIZATIONS: California Taxpayers' Association, National Tax Limitation Committee, Howard Jarvis Taxpayers Association.

OTHER LEADERSHIP GROUPS: American Association of Retired Persons (AARP), California Chamber of Commerce, California Business Roundtable, California YMCA, California Girl Scouts, Hispanic 100, the Democratic Speaker of the Assembly, the Republican Leader of the Senate, over 70 Mayors and 200 other public officials of both parties, from Members of Congress to City Council members. JOIN US AT WWW.JOINARNOLD.COM.

ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER

WAYNE JOHNSON, *President*

California Teachers Association

WARREN RUPF, *President*

California State Sheriffs' Association

REBUTTAL TO ARGUMENT IN FAVOR OF PROPOSITION 49

The decision to oppose Prop 49 was not easy, because we knew that most organizations with serious concerns about the measure would choose to remain silent.

But the League of Women Voters of California is not intimidated by the popularity and economic strength of a ballot measure's proponent. Our obligation is informing voters of *responsible* approaches to the critical issues facing Californians.

We actively support quality after school programs that change lives by improving academic performance and reducing crime.

The League believes it is our collective responsibility to promote the well being of children and encourage them to reach their full potential.

But this requires *more* than just after school programs.

It requires programs that provide child protection, family advocacy, medical care, dental care, mental health care and assistance in meeting such basic human needs...food, clothing and housing.

Maybe you support all these children's programs, but *other* priorities are also important to you—like environmental protection, public health care, senior assistance and trauma centers.

None of these important programs has guaranteed funding. But Prop 49 fully funds one after school program, year after year, in good budget times and bad.

Is that fair? Is that good public policy?

We ask you to go beyond the rhetoric. Study the issues. Look at the larger picture. Don't be fooled into thinking Prop 49 can solve all of society's problems.

Don't allow \$550,000,000 of your tax dollars to be isolated from the budget process each year.

Stop Prop 49.

BARBARA INATSUGU, *President*

League of Women Voters of California